

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02141 01 OF 02 060747Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SSM-03 IO-13 ORM-02 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00
EB-07 ACDA-07 /106 W
-----060823Z 040269 /11

P R 051619Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3930
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE 254
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 2141

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI PINS PINT LE
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION APRIL 29-MAY 5

REF: BEIRUT 1977 (DTG 281602Z APR 77)

1. SUMMARY: THIS WEEK MORE THAN 30,000 PEOPLE ATTENDED
MEETING IN BEIRUT TO COMMEMORATE KAMAL JUNBLATT, AND WALID
JUNBLATT WAS ELECTED TO SUCCEED HIS FATHER AS PRESIDENT
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 02141 01 OF 02 060747Z

OF POPULAR SOCIALIST PARTY. YASSIR ARAFAT CALLED ON
PRESIDENT SARKIS. LEBANESE AUTHORITIES DENIED ENTRY TO 27
PALESTINIANS COMING FROM EAST GERMANY. FIGHTING IN SOUTH
DECREASED. DEFMIN BOUTROS APPOINTED TWO ARMY OFFICERS TO
KEY POSTS OF CHIEF OF STAFF AND HEAD OF DEUXIEME BUREAU.
SAUDI ARABIS GAVE INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES VEHICLES AND BLANKETS.
EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY SIGNED AID AGREEMENT WITH

LEBANON. MINISTER OF HOUSING ANNOUNCED GOVERNMENT WOULD SOON BEGIN ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR LOANS UNDER HOUSING REPAIR PROGRAM. PRESIDENT FRANGIEH CALLED ON ARAB SECURITY FORCES TO EITHER IMPLEMENT CAIRO ACCORDS OR LEAVE. PHALANGE PARTY BEGAN SERIES OF MEETINGS TO REVIEW ITS OPTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. MEMORIAL DAY FOR KAMAL JUNBLATT.

A. MORE THAN 30,000 PEOPLE ATTENDED MASSIVE MEETING IN BEIRUT MAY 1 TO COMMEMORATE 40TH DAY OF DEATH OF KAMAL JUNBLATT (SEE BEIRUT 2052). WALID JUNBLATT PRESIDED. PRIMIN AL-HOSS, YASSIR ARAFAT, AND DELEGATIONS FROM SOVIET UNION AND OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRIES ATTENDED. WALID JUNBLATT MADE KEYNOTE SPEECH. HE PROMISED THAT POPULAR SOCIALIST PARTY WOULD CONTINUE POLICIES OF KAMAL AND SUPPORT AIMS OF PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE.

B. TWO INCIDENTS MARRED DAY'S ACTIVITIES. IN CHOUF UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS MURDERED TWO PRO-CHAMOUN DRUZE. IN WEST BEIRUT, SYRIAN ASF FORCES FIRED ON TWO CARLOADS OF DRUZE, WHO APPARENTLY REFUSED TO STOP AT A CHECKPOINT. AT LEAST TWO DRUZE WERE KILLED FROM GUNFIRE, AND ONE OTHER DIED IN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL WHEN GRENADE HE WAS CARRYING EXPLODED.

3. WALID ELECTED PSP PRESIDENT.

WALID JUNBLATT WAS UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF POPULAR CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 02141 01 OF 02 060747Z

SOCIALIST PARTY (PSP), BEIRUT RADIO ANNOUNCED APRIL 30. MEANWHILE, WALID AND MAJID ARSLAN, LEADERS OF TWO PRINCIPAL DRUZE FACTIONS IN LEBANON, HAVE MET THREE TIMES IN LAST TWO WEEKS. AFTER THEIR LATEST MEETING ON APRIL 30, THE TWO MEN ISSUED COMMUNIQUE URGING REJECTION OF ALL FORMS OF PARTITION AND PALESTINIAN RESPECT FOR LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY. IN ADDITION, WALID MET IN BEIRUT ON MAY 4 WITH ABDULLAH AL AHMAR, REPRESENTATIVE OF SYRIAN BAATH PARTY. NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT OF MEETING SAID WALID PLANNED TO VISIT DAMASCUS AND OTHER ARAB CAPITALS IN NEAR FUTURE.

4. ARAFAT CALLS ON SARKIS.

YASSIR ARAFAT CALLED ON PRESIDENT SARKIS AT BAABDA ON APRIL 29 (SEE BEIRUT 2032). ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, TWO MEN DISCUSSED PALESTINIAN EVACUATION OF DAMOUR AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CAIRO ACCORDS. INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR REPORTED MEETING WAS POSITIVE "TO THE MAXIMUM," WITH ARAFAT AGREEING TO NEARLY ALL ITEMS OF LEBANESE INTER-

PRETATION OF CAIRO ACCORDS AND ACCEPTING NEW SITE SOUTH
OF SIDON FOR REFUGEES NOW IN DAMOUR. RIGHTIST AL BAYRAQ,
HOWEVER, SAID MEETING WAS A FAILURE.

5. PALESTINIANS DENIED ENTRY.

LEBANESE AUTHORITIES DENIED ENTRY TO 27 PALESTINIANS
WHO LANDED AT BEIRUT AIRPORT ON APRIL 28 ABOARD AN INTERFLUG
FLIGHT FROM EAST GERMANY. AFTER BEING DETAINED OVERNIGHT,
PALESTINIANS WERE SENT BACK TO EAST GERMANY (SEE BEIRUT 2029).

6. THE SOUTH.

FIGHTING IN SOUTH OVER THE LAST WEEK DECREASED. THERE WAS
LITTLE GROUND ACTION AND ONLY ISOLATED CASES OF SHELLING.

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02141 02 OF 02 060818Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 2141

7. TWO ARMY POSTS FILLED.

DEFMIN BOUTROS HAS APPOINTED TWO OFFICERS TO KEY POSTS IN THE ARMY. COLONEL MUNIR TORABAY WAS APPOINTED CHIEF OF STAFF, THE NUMBER TWO MAN IN THE ARMY, REPLACING RETIRED BRIGADIER GENERAL SAID NASRALLAH, WHILE MAJOR JOHNNY ABDO, WAS APPOINTED HEAD OF DEUXIEME BUREAU (G-2), REPLACING COLONEL JULES BUSTANY. IN KEEPING WITH PAST PRACTICE, TORABAY IS DRUZE AND ABDO MARONITE CHRISTIAN. BOTH MEN
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 02141 02 OF 02 060818Z

ARE CONSIDERED CLOSE TO PRESIDENT SARKIS AND FRIENDLY TO UNITED STATES.

8. SAUDI DONATION TO INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES.

IN A CEREMONY AT BEIRUT AIRPORT ON APRIL 27, SAUDI ARABIAN AMBASSADOR ALI SHAER TURNED OVER VEHICLES AND OTHER MATERIAL TO LEBANESE INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES ON BEHALF OF HIS GOVERNMENT. SAUDI DONATION INCLUDED 25 LAND ROVERS, 15 BUSES, 10 STATION WAGONS, 10,000 BLANKETS, 1,000 BEDS, AND 10,000 MATTRESSES, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS.

9. EEC AID TO LEBANON.

A. EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (EEC) HAS AGREED TO EXTEND 30 MILLION ACCOUNT UNITS (1.0 AC EQUALS \$1.2) OF AID TO LEBANON, UNDER TERMS OF ACCORD SIGNED BY FONMIN BOUTROS AND BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID OWEN ON BEHALF OF EEC IN BRUSSELS ON MAY 3. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, LEBANON WILL RECEIVE 20 MILLION AC IN LOANS FROM EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK, 8 MILLION AC IN GRANTS, AND 2 MILLION AC IN OTHER LOANS. ACCORD ALSO GIVES PREFERENTIAL TARIFF TREATMENT TO LEBANESE PRODUCTS AND PROVIDES FOR PROMOTING TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES TO REDUCE LEBANON'S TRADE DEFICIT.

B. AFTER SIGNING, BOUTROS PUBLICLY CALLED ON EEC TO MAKE "AN EXCEPTIONAL EFFORT" BY GIVING LEBANON TOTAL OF 100 MILLION AC OF AID. NO DECISION WAS TAKEN IN THIS REGARD, HOWEVER, BEIRUT NEWSPAPERS SAID.

10. HOUSING LOANS.

MINISTER OF HOUSING SALMAN ANNOUNCED ON MAY 3 THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE APPLICATIONS FOR LOANS UNDER ITS HOUSING REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM FROM MAY 9 TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 02141 02 OF 02 060818Z

MAY 21. HE REPEATED THAT MAXIMUM LOANS WERE LL 30,000 FOR ONE DWELLING UNIT AND LL 60,000 FOR COMMON INSTALLATIONS OF AN APARTMENT BUILDING. HE ESTIMATED THAT 30,000 PEOPLE WOULD APPLY. HE ALSO SAID THAT ABOUT 50,000 HOUSING UNITS HAD BEEN DESTROYED OR DAMAGED DURING WAR AND THAT IT WOULD COST ABOUT LL 500 MILLION TO REPAIR AND REBUILD THEM.

11. INTERVIEW WITH FRANGIEH.

IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN BEIRUT WEEKLY AL USBU AL ARABI, FORMER PRESIDENT SULEIMAN FRANGIEH SAID PRESIDENT SARKIS "MUST EITHER ORDER THE ARAB SECURITY FORCES TO IMPLEMENT THE CAIRO ACCORDS...OR ASK THE DETERRENT FORCES TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY." IN AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO KUWAIT, FRANGIEH SAID CERTAIN MEMBERS OF QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE WERE TRYING TO SABOTAGE IMPLEMENTATION OF CAIRO ACCORDS. (ACCORDING TO L'ORIENT-LE JOUR, ON APRIL 30, SAUDI AND EGYPTIAN AMBASSADORS WARNED THEIR KUWAITI COLLEAGUE ON COMMITTEE NOT TO ACT AS "LONE RIDER.")

12. PHALANGIST PARTY MEETING.

PHALANGE PARTY MET ON APRIL 30 IN FIRST OF A SERIES OF MEETINGS TO REVIEW PARTY'S CONDITION AND OPTIONS, ACCORDING TO PHALANGE PAPER EL AMAL. OTHER NEWSPAPERS REPORTED FIRST MEETING FOCUSED ON PARTY'S RELATIONS WITH OTHER GROUPS, PARTICULARLY CAMILLE CHAMOUN'S NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY. PHALANGE PARTY NOW CLAIMED TO HAVE MORE THAN 75 THOUSAND MEMBERS, PAPERS SAID.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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